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**Identical letters dated 19 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw attention to the following:

On the morning of Saturday, 17 March 2012, terrorists carried out two operations that targeted peaceful homes and quiet neighbourhoods in Damascus, killing 27 persons, including three persons whose remains have yet to be identified, and wounding 140 others, some of whom are in critical condition. The terrorists' grisly plan concluded on the morning of 18 March with another bombing in Aleppo. The takfiri terrorists, along with those who stand by and support them and openly provide them with money and arms, continue to carry out terrorist operations as part of a conspiracy directed against Syria, its people and its institutions. The killing and wounding of dozens of innocent Syrians as a result of such terrorist acts, which are being perpetrated with foreign assistance facilitated by certain regional and international parties that have blatantly declared they are providing money and arms to terrorist groups and other extremists, is a flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions concerning international counter-terrorism efforts, international law and international humanitarian law.

These terrorist acts, and the media propaganda that encouraged their commission, came after millions of Syrians had filled the country's squares on 15 March 2012 to voice their support for the reforms that Syria has been putting into effect since the events began one year ago. They also followed the start of the mission by the United Nations Envoy, Mr. Kofi Annan, to reach a peaceful resolution to the Syrian crisis, without resorting to making threats or speaking of foreign intervention. In the context of Syria's acceptance of Mr. Annan's mission, and in view of the opposition's rejection of the mission or of its attempts to raise several obstacles designed to derail the mission, the language of killing and destruction in which those terrorist groups and their supporters are so well versed demonstrates their disdain of reform and democracy and their intention to cause the failure of the political solution that is now beginning to take shape. The bombings in Damascus and Aleppo and the ongoing destruction by terrorist organizations of the country's infrastructure, which the Syrian people built with tremendous effort, clearly demonstrate that, despite the money and arms they have received and their recruitment of terrorists trained in several countries, those organizations have failed to achieve their aims because of the steadfastness of Syria and its people, who



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uncovered the scope of the conspiracy and proceeded with incomparable resolve to restore security and stability throughout the country.

What is happening in Syria, in particular the suicide attacks and deadly bombings that are being perpetrated in the heart of the populated districts of Syria's cities, is a violation of the principles of human rights and international humanitarian law for which there can be no justification whatsoever. Countering terrorism requires all States to refrain from fostering, supporting, financing, providing safe haven or logistical support to terrorists. States should furthermore cooperate closely with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to implement internationally agreed counter-terrorism measures. The open calls for arming the opposition are blatant acts of aggression and instigation that must be addressed and sanctioned. There is no justification whatsoever for showing any leniency towards those who support terrorism.

In order to preserve States' sovereignty and their independence, and to maintain international security, peace and stability, Syria calls on the United Nations and its bodies concerned with countering terrorism and the financing thereof, including the Security Council and its specialized subsidiary committee, as well as the Human Rights Council, to deny terrorists and those who support them any cover for their destructive practices.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations